



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
COCOA PERMITS SECTION
400 HIGH POINT DRIVE, SUITE 600
COCOA, FLORIDA 32926

December 1, 2008

Cocoa Permits Section
SAJ-2008-4468 (NW-AWP)

Florida Department of Transportation
Attn: Patrick Muench
719 South Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, Florida 32720

Dear Mr. Muench:

Your application for a Department of the Army permit received on November 26, 2008, has been assigned number SAJ-2008-4468 (NW-AWP). A review of the information and drawings provided shows the proposed work is the replacement of the SR 5 bridges (73004 and 730042) over Black Branch Creek. The proposed work will include dredging and filling within Black Branch Creek. The project is located at the intersection of State Road 5 and Black Branch Creek, Bridge Numbers 730004 and 730042, FPN 411092-1-52-01, Sections 14 and 23, Township 12 South, Range 30 East, Latitude 29.451 Longitude -81.2455, Flagler County, Florida.

Your project, as depicted on the received drawings, is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 3. In addition, project specific conditions have been enclosed. This verification is valid until December 1, 2010. Please access the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Jacksonville District's Regulatory web to access web links to view the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register Vol. 72, dated March 12, 2007, the Corrections to the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register 72, May 8, 2007, and the List of Regional Conditions. Our website address is as follows:

http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Regulatory/permitting_types_NWP.htm.

These files contain the description of the Nationwide Permit authorization, the Nationwide Permit general conditions, and the regional conditions, which apply specifically to this verification for NWP 3. Additionally, enclosed is a list of the six General Conditions, which apply to all Department of the Army authorizations. You must comply with all of the special and general conditions and any project specific condition of this authorization or you may be subject to enforcement action. In the event you have not completed construction of your project

within the specified time limit, a separate application or re-verification may be required.

The following special conditions are included with this verification:

1. Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized, the attached "Self-Certification Statement of Compliance" must be completed and submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mail the completed form to the Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019.

2. The Permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structures or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the Permittee will be required, upon due notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

3. No structure or work shall adversely affect or disturb properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or those eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Prior to the start of work, the Permittee or other party on the Permittee's behalf, shall conduct a search in the National Register Information System (NRIS). Information can be found at; <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/nris.htm>. Information on properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register can be identified by contacting the Florida Master File Office by email at fmsfile@dos.state.fl.us or by telephone at 850-245-6440.

If unexpected cultural resources are encountered at any time within the project area that was not the subject of a previous cultural resource assessment survey, work should cease in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries. The permittee, or other party, should notify the SHPO immediately, as well as the appropriate Army Corps of Engineers office. After such notifications, project activities should not resume without verbal and/or written authorization from the SHPO.

If unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately, and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes, unless on Federal lands. After such notifications, project activities on non-Federal lands shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization from the Florida State Archaeologist for finds under his or her jurisdiction.

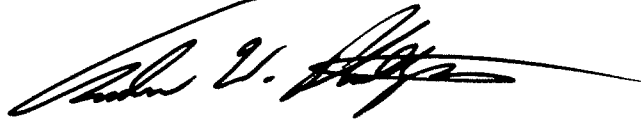
This letter of authorization does not obviate the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, which may be required. In Florida, projects qualifying for this NWP must be authorized under Part IV of Chapter 373 by the Department of Environmental Protection, a water management district under §. 373.069, F.S., or a local government with delegated authority under §. 373.441, F.S., and receive Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Coastal Zone Consistency Concurrence (CZCC) (or a waiver), as well as any authorizations required by the State for the use of sovereignty submerged lands. You should check State-permitting requirements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the appropriate water management district.

This letter does not give absolute Federal authority to perform the work as specified on your application. The proposed work may be subject to local building restrictions mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program. You should contact your local office that issues building permits to determine if your site is located in a flood-prone area, and if you must comply with the local building requirements mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program.

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the conditions, limitations, or expiration date for the above referenced NWP, please contact Andrew Phillips by telephone at 321-504-3771 extension 14.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to take a few minutes to visit the following link and complete our automated Customer Service Survey: <http://regulatory.usacesurvey.com/>. Your input is appreciated - favorable or otherwise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Phillips", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew W. Phillips
Project Manager

Enclosures

GENERAL CONDITIONS
33 CFR PART 320-330

PUBLISHED FEDERAL REGISTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1986

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **date identified in the letter**. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
6. You must allow a representative from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Permit Number: NW-3

Application Number: SAJ-2008-4468 (NW-AWP)

Permittee's Name & Address (please print or type): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Location of the Work: _____

Date Work Started: _____ Date Work Completed: _____

Description of the Work (e.g., bank stabilization, residential or commercial filling, docks, dredging, etc.): _____

Acreage or Square Feet of Impacts to Waters of the United States: _____

Describe Mitigation completed (if applicable): _____

Describe any Deviations from Permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations): _____

I certify that all work, and mitigation (if applicable) was done in accordance with the limitations and conditions as described in the permit. Any deviations as described above are depicted on the attached drawing(s).

Signature of Permittee

Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

PERMIT NUMBER: _____

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.

To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated responsibilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below and mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

(TRANSFeree-SIGNATURE)

(SUBDIVISION)

(DATE)

(LOT)

(BLOCK)

(NAME-PRINTED)

(STREET ADDRESS)

(MAILING ADDRESS)

(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)

CESAJ-RD-NC (1145B)

SAJ-2008-4468 (NW-AWP)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Statement of Findings/Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact/Public Interest Determination

1. For each of the reissued and new Nationwide Permits (NWP), HQUSACE issued a decision document that contains an Environmental Assessment (EA), Statement of Findings, public interest review, and as appropriate, a Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines analysis. The Office of the Chief of Engineers has determined that division and district engineers will impose, as necessary, additional conditions on the NWP authorization or exercise discretionary authority to address locally important factors relating to the public interest, including any potential adverse effects on the human environment, and to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the environment. Supplemental documentation was prepared for the division engineer to address the individual and cumulative effects of the NWP(s) on local resources. On 12 July 2007, the supplemental documentation was issued by the division engineer and the Jacksonville District's proposed regional conditions were approved. Where required by the terms of the permit, general conditions, and/or regional conditions, the Jacksonville District will continue to perform case-specific review to ensure that the NWP will authorize only activities with no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the environment and those activities will not be contrary to the public interest.

2. Name and address of applicant:

Florida Department of Transportation
Attn: Patrick Muench
719 South Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, Florida 32720

3. Project description: The applicant proposes to replace the existing SR 5 bridges (73004 and 730042) over Black Branch Creek in Flagler County. The replacement structures are higher and longer than the existing bridges to provide increased drift clearance above the design flood elevation and 5 foot wide wildlife shelves on both ends of the bridges. Installation will include dredging within Black Branch Creek and the placement of articulated concrete block and bedding stone within the creek channel. The project includes excavation of 0.24 acre of waters of the United States and filling of 0.04 acre wetlands. This activity meets the terms and conditions for authorization under Nationwide Permit 3, as published in the 12 March 2007, issue of the Federal Register (72 FR 11092).

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SUBJECT: Statement of Findings/Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact/Public Interest Determination

4. Project location: The project is located at the intersection of State Road 5 and Black Branch Creek Bridge Numbers 730004 and 730042, Sections 14 and 23, Township 12 South, Range 30 East, Latitude 29.451 Longitude -81.2455, Flagler County, Florida.

5. Existing site conditions: Three vegetative communities are present adjacent to the project area. There are two wetland communities and one upland community. Black Branch Creek itself is the dominant feature within the corridor. The creek was highly channelized in the immediate vicinity of the bridge structure. Heavy siltation under the bridge structure has reduced the flow-through capability. Of the spans under the bridge, only half of them allow water to flow through and all were vegetated with weedy, transitional and some wetland herbaceous species. The forested component of the stream extends beyond the right of way and was dominated by a mix of cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and elm (*Ulmus floridana*).

The second wetland community is an extensive herbaceous marsh on the east side of the road south of the bridge. This wetland extended from the toe of slope of SR 5 (US 1) to the east as part of the Black Branch Swamp system. Vegetation within the marsh included pickerel weed (*Pontedaria cordata*), duck potato (*Saggitaria* sp.), saw grass (*Cladium jamaciense*), lizard tail (*Saururus cernuus*), cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*), primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*), Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*), and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

Upland communities exist consisting of small islands within the marsh as well as along the northeastern edge of the forested swamp in the higher elevations. Much of the vegetation here is varied but included laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), cabbage palm, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), bracken fern (*Pteridium* spp.), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*) and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*).

All three communities on the east side of the road exhibit a high level of vegetative diversity and structure as well as an overall lack of nuisance species. These are healthy communities that offer good forage and nesting opportunities for wildlife species. On the west side of the roadway, a railroad track parallels the road through the entire project area. The railroad grade is slightly higher than the road grade and is located approximately 25-30 feet away. The railroad grade (fill areas) bisects the communities along this side of the road, creating a series of roadside ditches and swales that break up the habitat in distinct segments. Within the roadside swale along the southbound lanes there is more nuisance species, and the trees are primarily red maples. The railroad grade itself supports a variety of upland

CESAJ-RD-NC (1145b)

SUBJECT: Statement of Findings/Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact/Public Interest Determination

nuisance and weedy herbaceous and shrubby species. A larger canal is located on the west side of the railroad grade. These disjointed communities reduce the quality of the Black Branch Creek corridor habitat in this area.

Wildlife usage within the project corridor is moderate to high given the undeveloped nature of the surrounding areas and the connectivity provided by Black Branch Creek. The combination of marshes, forested wetlands and upland communities provides suitable nesting and denning for a variety of species. During the course of the wetland flagging activity no listed wildlife species were observed. However, footprints from raccoons and wading birds were evident in the exposed sandy soils along the creek's banks. Larger wildlife (i.e. deer) crossing under the bridge are likely impeded by the low clearance and heavy siltation of the stream course. There are no fences along the right of way (ROW) to encourage wildlife crossing under the bridge rather than across the roadway. Several road kills (raccoon) were noted just south of the bridge.

6. Scope of Analysis: Our scope is limited to the immediate permit area.

7. Alternatives: See Decision Document for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the Director of Civil Works on 1 March 2007, and Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the South Atlantic Division Commander on 12 July 2007.

8. Evaluation of the potential adverse environmental effects (direct, indirect, and cumulative) of the proposed activity: See Decision Document for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the Director of Civil Works on 1 March 2007, and Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the South Atlantic Division Commander on 12 July 2007.

9. Mitigation required to ensure that the activity being verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will have no more than minimal adverse effect on environment: The applicant has designed the bridge replacement to include a larger opening to allow for increased drift clearance and wildlife shelves to allow more effective wildlife movement.

10. Other Federal, State, and Local Authorizations Obtained or Required and Pending:

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SUBJECT: Statement of Findings/Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact/Public Interest Determination

a. Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC): The WQC, number 400-035-119249-1, has not been issued to date.

b. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency certification: Issuance of WQC by the SJRWMD will certify the project is consistent with CZM.

c. Endangered Species Act compliance: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the proposal would have no effect on any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

d. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance: NHPA concerns will be addressed by the placement of a special condition in the verification letter advising Permittees how to proceed should unexpected cultural resources be encountered. .

e. Other authorizations: N/A.

11. Special Conditions: No special conditions are required.

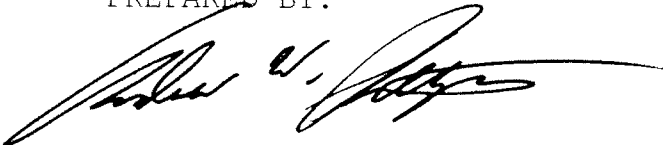
12. Public interest review: See Decision Document for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the Director of Civil Works on 1 March 2007, and Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the South Atlantic Division Commander on 12 July 2007.

13. Finding of No Significant Impact: See Decision Document for Nationwide Permit 3, which was approved by the Director of Civil Works on 1 March 2007.

14. Public Interest Determination: This activity, if conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the NWP and the special conditions stated in the NWP verification letter, will not be contrary to the public interest.

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:



Andrew W. Phillips
PROJECT MANAGER



Irene F. Sadowski
Chief, Cocoa Permits Section